

Each Era Reorganizes Work Around a Scarce Capability

The Technician Economy is not a sudden development — it is the next step in a long economic evolution. Understanding where it comes from explains why it matters now.

	I Industrial Economy Machines & Factories	II Knowledge Economy Education & Expertise	III Innovation Economy Ideas & Technology	IV Technician Economy™ Automation & Applied Skill
CORE QUESTION	How do we produce at scale?	How do we manage complex systems?	How do we invent new technologies?	How do we operate those technologies reliably?
PRIMARY ASSET	Physical Capital — machines, factories, infrastructure	Human Capital — education, credentials, expertise	Intellectual Capital — ideas, patents, software	Skill Capital Applied technical capability built through real-world practice
NATURE OF WORK	Routine physical labor on production lines	Professional services, management, coordination	Invention, commercialization, platform creation	Technician roles combine automation with human capability — mechanical, electrical, electronic, and industrial IT systems
WORKFORCE SIGNAL	Physical output and production capacity	Degrees and formal credentials	Patents, equity, innovation throughput	Verified technical competency and hands-on operational judgment
BINDING CONSTRAINT	Physical capital — machines and factories	Educated workforce — access to knowledge	Commercialization speed — turning ideas into products	Technician Capacity People who can deploy and sustain complex systems
THE STRUCTURAL INSIGHT	<p><i>Factories built the industrial economy. Universities built the knowledge economy. Startups built the innovation economy.</i></p> <p><i>Technicians run the systems all three depend on.</i></p>			